

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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PASS OES, DOE, AID, NASA (FOR BILL PETTIT TO PASS TO
SCHURMEIER, JPL)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, IN
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ACCORDS TOP PRIORITY TO SOLAR ENERGY

1. PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI TOLD INDIAN PARLIAMENT
JULY 21 THAT GOI "GIVES HIGH PRIORITY TO UTILIZATION
OF SOLAR ENERGY FOR A WIDE RANGE OF APPLICATIONS WITH
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ITS USE IN RURAL AREAS." HE SAID
THAT ALTHOUGH EFFORTS IN THIS AREA WERE AT THE R AND D
STAGE, SEVERAL PROJECTS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS.
AMONG THE SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS, HE LISTED, ARE: (1) 10 KW
EXPERIMENTAL SOLAR POWER STATION BUILT JOINTLY BY BHEL
AND INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MADRAS : (2) 1-TON
CAPACITY PER DAY PROTOTYPE PADDY DRYER DEVELOPED BY
ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY; (3) 1000 LITRE CAPACITY
DESALINATION PLANT DEVELOPED BY CENTRAL SALT AND MARINE
CHEMICALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAS ALSO
SPONSORED AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL
RESEARCH PROGRAM ON BIO-GAS TECHNOLOGY AND
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UTILIZATION.

2. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IS A REITERATION
OF THE TOP PRIORITY THAT GOI ACCORDS TO SOLAR ENERGY
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND ITS APPLICATIONS
PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS. SEVERAL DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES SUCH AS WEST GERMANY ARE SEEKING S AND T

COLLABORATION WITH INDIA IN FIELDS WHICH HAVE PROMISING

POTENTIAL MARKETS HERE. ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, WEST GERMANY IS ASSISTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 10 KW SOLAR POWER STATION. WEST GERMANY HAS PROVIDED THE PRIME MOVER, THE R-144 EXPANDER, GENERATOR AND COOLING PARTS.

3. THE INDO-US SUBCOMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAD RECOMMENDED DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPOSAL FOR A 12 KW POWER STATION USING THE DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM. BHARAT HEAVY ELECTRICALS LIMITED (BHEL) AND JET PROPULSION LABORATORY (JPL) PASADENA, ARE POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS. BHEL HAS INITIATED STEPS TO IMPELENT THE INDIAN PART OF THE PROJECT. IT HAS APPLIED FOR AN IMPORT LICENSE TO PURCHASE A 7 1/2 KW PLANT PRODUCED BY AN AMERICAN COMPANY. WHEN APPROVED, THIS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WILL BE AN EXCELLENT DEMONSTRATION OF INDO-US COOPERATION IN THE APPLICATION OF HIGH TECHNOLOGIES TO THE PROBLEMS OF RURAL AREAS. END COMMENT.
GOHEEN

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